

THE  
STATUTES AT LARGE

OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

FROM  
DECEMBER, 1881, TO MARCH, 1883.

AND  
RECENT TREATIES, POSTAL CONVENTIONS, AND EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATIONS.

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1883.

**CHAP. 380.**—An act to authorize the President of the United States to call an international conference to fix on and recommend for universal adoption a common prime meridian to be used in the reckoning of longitude and in the regulation of time throughout the world

August 3, 1882.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the President of the United States be authorized and requested to extend to the governments of all nations in diplomatic relations with our own an invitation to appoint delegates to meet delegates from the United States in the city of Washington, at such time as he may see fit to designate, for the purpose of fixing upon a meridian proper to be employed as a common zero of longitude and standard of time reckoning throughout the globe; and that the President be authorized to appoint delegates, not exceeding three in number, to represent the United States in such international conference.

International conference for selection of meridian for use as a common zero of longitude and standard of time, etc.

Approved, August 3, 1882.

**CHAP. 381.**—An act to authorize the purchase of a site and the erection of a suitable building for the United States district court, post-office, and other government offices at the city of Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

August 3, 1882.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to purchase a site for, and cause to be erected thereon, a suitable building, with fire-proof vaults therein, for the accommodation of the United States district and circuit courts, post office, and other government offices, at the city of Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The plans, specifications, and full estimates for said building shall be previously made and approved according to law, and shall not exceed for the site and building complete the sum of one hundred thousand dollars: *Provided,* That the site shall leave the building unexposed to danger from fire in adjacent buildings, by an open space of not less than forty feet, including streets and alleys; and no money appropriated for this purpose shall be available until a valid title to the site for said building shall be vested in the United States, nor until the State of Pennsylvania shall have ceded to the United States exclusive jurisdiction over the same, during the time the United States shall be or remain the owners thereof for all purposes except the administration of the criminal laws of said State and the service of civil process therein.

Williamsport, Pa.  
Public building.  
Purchase of site.

Plans, cost.

*Proviso.*

Title.

Approved, August 3, 1882.

**CHAP. 384.**—An act to provide for the disposition of the Fort Larned military reservation.

August 4, 1882.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized to relinquish and turn over to the Department of the Interior for restoration to the public domain, the Fort Larned military reservation, in the State of Kansas.

Fort Larned military reservation restored to public domain.

**SEC. 2.** That the Commissioner of the General Land Office is hereby directed to have said public lands, when transferred as provided for in section one, surveyed in like manner as other public lands, and shall thereupon cause the same to be appraised by three disinterested competent persons, and after such appraisement shall have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior the land shall be sold to actual settlers only, at the appraised price, and as nearly as may be in conformity to the provisions of the pre-emption laws of the United States: *Provided,* That no person shall be permitted to purchase more than one quarter section of said land: *And provided further,* That the Commissioner may,

Survey.

Appraisement.

Sale to actual settlers.

*Provisos.*

in his discretion, cause the section of said reservation on which improvements are situated to be appraised in a body, together with such improvements, and may then sell the same at public or private sale, as he may deem to the best advantage of the government, except that it shall not be sold at less than the appraised price.

Approved, August 4, 1882.

August 4, 1882. **CHAP. 385.**—An act to quiet title to certain land in Washington, District of Columbia.

Quitclaim and release of certain land in Washington, D. C., etc.

*Proviso.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to quitclaim and release unto the heirs, devisees, and assigns of Joseph Pearson, deceased, their heirs and assigns, all the right, title, and interest of the United States of America, in and to all of squares six hundred and seventy, six hundred and seventy-one, six hundred and seventy-two, seven hundred and ten, and seven hundred and eleven in the city of Washington and District of Columbia, as the same are laid down on the original plat or plan of said city: *Provided,* That this act shall not render the United States liable for any costs, expenses, or damages in relation to the land hereby directed to be quitclaimed and released.

Approved, August 4, 1882.

August 4, 1882. **CHAP. 386.**—An act to restore the Fort Benton Military Reservation to the public domain, and for other purposes.

Fort Benton military reservation restored to the public domain, etc.

Sale; resident actual settlers' right of priority.

*Proviso.*

R. S. 2387, 437.

Addition to town site of Fort Benton.

*Proviso.*

Land reserved to Sarah E. Eastman and William S. Wetzel.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of War is hereby directed to restore to the Secretary of the Interior the custody and control of the military reservation at Fort Benton, Montana. The Secretary of the Interior shall dispose of the same under the public land laws, and such actual settlers as are now on said tract in pursuance of military authority shall be entitled to the first right of entry: *Provided,* That the following described portion of said tract shall be disposed of under the provisions of section twenty-three hundred and eighty-seven of the Revised Statutes of the United States relating to town sites on public lands, to-wit: Beginning at the northeast corner of lot numbered three, in section fourteen, township twenty-four north, of range eight east of the principal meridian; running thence due east eighty chains; thence due south to the Missouri River; thence along the northern bank of said Missouri River to the intersection of the eastern line of lot three in section twenty-three of said township; thence due north along the line of the town site of Fort Benton to the place of beginning, as an addition to and a part of the present town-site of Fort Benton: *And provided further,* That there is reserved from said described tract of land to Mrs. Sarah E. Eastman, widow and administratrix of Francis Henry Eastman, and William S. Wetzel, the land on which the fur-trading post known as Old Fort Benton stands, and the land inclosed and occupied by them, as described on plats on file in the War Department, the same being six acres, more or less, to which they shall have the prior right of entry, and that the same be conveyed to them by the proper authorities upon their compliance with law. The county judge of the county in which said town site is situated shall cause to be made a survey and a plat of said tract of land, and the said plat thereof shall be filed in the office of the register of the proper land office within ninety days from and after the passage of this act; and thereupon it shall be lawful for the county judge as trustee of said townsite, to make entry of said tract of land at the local land office, and to dispose of the same to occupants in the same manner as if the same had been a part of the original townsite of Fort Benton.

Approved, August 4, 1882.